

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 151981

1. FOLLOWING IS INITIAL BACKGROUND FOR MISSION PARTICIPATION IN AND LEADERSHIP OF FORMULATION IN BRUSSELS OF KEY ELEMENTS OF DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR REVIEW BY DPC MINISTERS IN DECEMBER.

2. PROCEDURE. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO FURNISH FIRST US VIEWS BY END-AUGUST FOR US NATO REVIEW AND COMMENT. WE WOULD NOT WISH DRC TO BEGIN DRAFTING EXERCISE MUCH BEFORE EARLY OCTOBER, WHEN ECONOMIC APPRECIATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE. MILITARY APPRECIATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER ECONOMIC INPUT AND CAN THEN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

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3. ASSUMPTIONS. IN OUR VIEW DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

SHOULD REAFFIRM THE CURRENT NATO STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE, US INVOLVEMENT AND CONTINUED EUROPEAN CONVENTIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENT. SEE ALSO COMMENTS ON LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT (PARA 8).

4. RESOURCE GUIDANCE. IN GENERAL, ACTIVE DUTY MANPOWER LEVELS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN STABLE. BUDGETS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO FULLY SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE OF MANPOWER

LEVELS AS INDICATED AND PRIORITY FORCE MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS TAKING INFLATION INTO ACCOUNT. WE ARE CONSIDERING A RANGE OF FORMULATIONS BY WHICH THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED TO INCLUDE RIGOROUS REVIEW OF PRIORITIES.

5. OBJECTIVES. GUIDANCE SHOULD SET BROAD OBJECTIVES FOR NATO DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, PROBABLY BY REGION.

6. AREAS OF EMPHASIS. THERE WILL BE SOME SPECIFIC AREAS OF FORCE IMPROVEMENT TO BE STRESSED, DEPENDING UPON STATUS OF NATIONAL FORCE PROGRAMS AT END 1976 AS PREDICTED IN NATIONAL RESPONSES TO DPQ 74. STANDARDIZATION AND INTER-OPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS WILL CONSTITUTE PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS. HOWEVER, PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS AT MOMENT IS SEEN AS ON FORCE INTEGRATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT, TO PERMIT EXISTING NATIONAL CONVENTIONAL FORCES TO OPERATE TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY. WITH LIMITED ANNUAL INCREASES EXPECTED IN DEFENSE BUDGETS, EMPHASIS SHOULD LEAD TO BETTER UTILIZATION OF EXISTING FORCES, TO INCLUDE EXPANDED PLANNING (CONTINGENCY PLANNING, REINFORCEMENT PLANNING, ETC.), INCREASED COMMON PROGRAMS, AND GREATER RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION IN SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY IN USE OF ALL EXISTING FORCES, WHETHER THEY ARE FORMALLY COMMITTED TO THE ALLIANCE OR NOT.

7. FYI.PRIORITIES. SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR FORCE IMPROVEMENT TO BE PROPOSED BY US FOR ADOPTION BY MINISTERS WILL BE SELECTED IN RELATION TO PROGRESS IN CURRENT BASIC ISSUES PROGRAMS AND IN LIGHT OF OUR DEVELOPING VIEWS ON MILITARY POSTURE FOR NATO IN THE 1976-1984 TIME FRAME.
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8. LONG-RANGE CONCEPT. WE ARE DEVELOPING A LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT FOR NATO UPON WHICH SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SOUGHT AT THE NEXT MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DPC MEETING IN DECEMBER 1974. THE CONCEPT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT BALANCE BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES, WOULD SERVE TO PROVIDE A COHERENT AND CREDIBLE DEFENSE OF THE NATO AREA, AND WOULD TAKE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THE

FLEXIBILITY OF EMPLOYMENT OF MODERN MILITARY FORCES.
ACKNOWLEDGING THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION PREVALENT
IN MOST NATO NATIONS AND LIKELY CONSTRAINTS ON RESOURCES,
IT SHOULD STRIVE TO ATTAIN THESE OBJECTIVES THROUGH
OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY IN THE STRUCTURING AND PLANS FOR USE OF
NATO FORCES. END FYI.

9. USNATO 4174 AND 4180 JUST RECEIVED AND WILL BE TAKEN
INTO ACCOUNT. FURTHER COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW.

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